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United States Department of State
Bureau of Intelligence and Research

Intelligence Research Report

Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan

IRR No. 214 - December 13, 1989



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Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan¹

Intelligence Research Report No. 214
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Summary

As of December 1, 1989, China recognized and maintained diplomatic relations with 134 nations and the self-declared "state" of Palestine.² Since April 1988 China has exchanged diplomatic recognition with Bahrain, Qatar, and the self-declared Palestinian "state" but has suspended relations with Grenada, Liberia, and Belize.

Taiwan currently is recognized by 26 nations, up from 22 in April 1988. Most of the nations recognizing Taiwan are in Central America and the Caribbean, although the Republic of Korea, Saudi Arabia, and South Africa also recognize Taiwan. In 1989, Belize, Grenada, and Liberia switched diplomatic recognition from China to Taiwan; The Bahamas did so in 1988.

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¹ This report is an update of IRR 161, "Diplomatic Relations of the People's Republic of China and Taiwan," April 25, 1988.

² The US does not recognize the self-declared "state" of Palestine.

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A. Nations having diplomatic relations with China (134) (dates of recognition/establishment of relations in parentheses)

Afghanistan (Jan. 1950/Jan. 1955)

Albania (Nov. 1949/Nov. 1949)

Algeria (Dec. 1958/July 1962)³

Angola (Jan. 1983/Jan. 1983)

Antigua and Barbuda (Jan. 1983/Jan. 1983)

Argentina (Feb. 1972/Aug. 1972)

Australia (Dec. 1972/Aug. 1973)

Austria (May 1971/May 1971)

Bahrain (Apr. 1989/Apr. 1989)

Bangladesh (Oct. 1975/Jan. 1976)

Barbados (May 1977/Apr. 1978)

Belgium (Oct. 1971/Apr. 1971)

Benin (Nov. 1964/Dec. 1972)⁴

Bolivia (July 1985/July 1985)

Botswana (Jan. 1975/Apr. 1975)

Brazil (Aug. 1974/Dec. 1974)

Bulgaria (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949)

Burkina (Sept. 1973/Oct. 1973)

Burma (Dec. 1949/June 1950)

Burundi (Dec. 1963/Oct. 1971)⁵

Cambodia (July 1958/May 1970)⁶

Cameroon (Mar. 1971/Mar. 1971)

Canada (Oct. 1970/Oct. 1970)

Cape Verde (Apr. 1976/Oct. 1976)

Central African Republic (Sept. 1964/Aug. 1976)⁷

Chad (Nov. 1972/Mar. 1973)

Chile (Dec. 1970/Jan. 1971)

Colombia (Feb. 1980/June 1980)

Comoros (Nov. 1975/Oct. 1976)

Congo (Feb. 1964/Feb. 1964)

Côte d'Ivoire (Mar. 1983/Mar. 1983)

³ China recognized the Provisional Algerian Government in December 1958 and the Republic of Algeria in July 1962.

⁴ Formerly Dahomey. China recognized Dahomey in November 1964. Relations were severed in January 1966 and reestablished in December 1972.

⁵ Burundi was recognized initially in December 1963. Relations were suspended in January 1965 and reestablished in October 1971.

⁶ China recognizes the Coalition Government of Democratic Kampuchea (CGDK), not the People's Republic of Kampuchea (PRK).

⁷ Formerly Central African Empire. China recognized the CAE in September 1964. Relations were suspended in January 1966 and resumed in August 1976.

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| Cuba (Sept. 1960/Sept. 1960) | Jamaica (Nov. 1972/Mar. 1973) |
| Cyprus (Jan. 1972/June 1972) | Japan (Sept. 1972/Sept. 1972) |
| Czechoslovakia (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) | Jordan (Apr. 1977/June 1977) |
| Denmark (Jan. 1950/May 1950) | Kenya (Dec. 1963/Jan. 1964) |
| Djibouti (Jan. 1979/Mar. 1980) | Kiribati (June 1980/June 1980) |
| Ecuador (Jan. 1980/July 1980) | Korea, North – Democratic People's Republic of Korea (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) |
| Egypt (May 1956/May 1956) | Kuwait (Mar. 1971/Oct. 1971) |
| Equatorial Guinea (Oct. 1970/Dec. 1970) | Laos (June 1962/Sept. 1962) |
| Ethiopia (Dec. 1970/Dec. 1970) | Lebanon (Nov. 1971/Nov. 1971) |
| Fiji (Nov. 1975/Apr. 1976) | Lesotho (Apr. 1983/Apr. 1983) |
| Finland (Jan. 1950/Oct. 1950) | Libya (Apr. 1976/Aug. 1978) ⁹ |
| France (Jan. 1964/Jan. 1964) | Luxembourg (Nov. 1972/Dec. 1973) |
| Gabon (Apr. 1974/June 1974) | Madagascar (Nov. 1972/Jan. 1973) |
| Gambia, The (Dec. 1974/Jan. 1975) | Malaysia (Nov. 1971/May 1974) |
| Germany, East – German Democratic Republic (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) | Maldives (Oct. 1972/Oct. 1972) |
| Germany, West – Federal Republic of Germany (Oct. 1972/Oct. 1972) | Mali (Oct. 1960/Oct. 1960) |
| Ghana (July 1960/Feb. 1972) ⁸ | Malta (Jan. 1972/June 1972) |
| Greece (June 1972/Nov. 1972) | Mauritania (July 1965/July 1965) |
| Guinea (Oct. 1959/Oct. 1959) | Mauritius (Apr. 1968/May 1972) |
| Guinea-Bissau (Mar. 1974/Mar. 1975) | Mexico (Feb. 1972/May 1972) |
| Guyana (Feb. 1972/June 1975) | Mongolia (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) |
| Hungary (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) | Morocco (Oct. 1958/Nov. 1958) |
| Iceland (Dec. 1971/May 1972) | Mozambique (June 1975/June 1975) |
| India (Dec. 1949/Aug. 1950) | Nepal (Aug. 1955/Aug. 1955) |
| Iran (Aug. 1971/Aug. 1971) | Netherlands (Mar. 1950/Nov. 1954) |
| Iraq (July 1958/Aug. 1958) | New Zealand (Dec. 1972/Mar. 1973) |
| Ireland (June 1979/Feb. 1980) | Nicaragua (Dec. 1985/July 1986) |
| Italy (Nov. 1970/Nov. 1970) | Niger (July 1974/Aug. 1974) |

⁸ Ghana was recognized in July 1960. Relations were suspended in November 1966 and resumed in February 1972.

⁹ Libya unilaterally announced recognition of China in 1971, but formal relations were not established until the representatives of Taiwan departed Tripoli in 1978.

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| Nigeria (Feb. 1971/Feb. 1971) | Sweden (Jan. 1950/May 1950) |
| Norway (Jan. 1950/Oct. 1954) | Switzerland (Jan. 1950/Sept. 1950) |
| | Syria (Aug. 1956/Aug. 1956) |
| Oman (Dec. 1978/Dec. 1978) | |
| Pakistan (Jan. 1950/May 1951) | Tanzania (Oct. 1964/Oct. 1964) ¹² |
| ^{10/} | Thailand (July 1975/Sept. 1975) |
| Papua New Guinea (Oct. 1976/Oct. 1980) | Togo (Sept. 1972/Nov. 1972) |
| Peru (Aug. 1971/Nov. 1971) | Trinidad and Tobago (June 1974/Apr. 1975) |
| | Tunisia (Jan. 1964/Oct. 1971) ¹³ |
| Philippines (June 1975/Sept. 1975) | Turkey (Aug. 1971/Aug. 1971) |
| Poland (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) | |
| Portugal (Feb. 1979/May 1979) | Uganda (Oct. 1962/Oct. 1962) |
| Qatar (July 1988/July 1988) | United Arab Emirates (Nov. 1984/Nov. 1984) |
| | United Kingdom (June 1950/June 1954) |
| Romania (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) | United States (Jan. 1979/Mar. 1979) |
| Rwanda (Nov. 1971/May 1972) | Uruguay (Feb. 1988/Feb. 1988) |
| San Marino (May 1971) ¹¹ | |
| Sao Tome and Principe (July 1975/Apr. 1976) | Vanuatu (Mar. 1982/Mar. 1982) |
| Senegal (Dec. 1971/May 1972) | Venezuela (June 1974/Sept. 1974) |
| | Vietnam (Jan. 1950/Jan. 1950) ¹⁴ |
| Seychelles (June 1976/Mar. 1977) | Western Samoa (Nov. 1976/Nov. 1976) |
| Sierra Leone (July 1971/July 1971) | Yemen, North – Yemen Arab Republic |
| Somalia (Dec. 1960/Dec. 1960) | (Aug. 1956/Sept. 1956) |
| Soviet Union (Oct. 1949/Oct. 1949) | Yemen, South – People's Democratic Republic |
| Spain (Mar. 1973/June 1973) | of Yemen (Dec. 1967/Jan. 1968) |
| | Yugoslavia (Oct. 1949/Jan. 1955) |
| Sri Lanka (Jan. 1950/Feb. 1957) | Zaire (Nov. 1972/Jan. 1973) |
| Sudan (Dec. 1958/Dec. 1958) | Zambia (Oct. 1964/Oct. 1964) |
| Suriname (May 1976/Jan. 1977) | Zimbabwe (Apr. 1980/June 1980) |

¹⁰ China recognized the self-declared "state" of Palestine and established diplomatic relations with it upon its declaration of statehood in November 1988.

¹¹ San Marino has only consular-level relations with China.

¹² China recognized Tanganyika in December 1961, Zanzibar in January 1964, and Tanzania in October 1964.

¹³ Relations with Tunisia were suspended in 1967 and reestablished in October 1971.

¹⁴ Prior to the July 1976 formation of the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, China had separate relations with North Vietnam (January 1950) and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of South Vietnam (June 1969).

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B. Nations that recognize but have no official relations with China (3)

- Bhutan (Oct. 1971): Recognition is based on vote in UN to admit China and expel representatives of Taipei.
- Indonesia (Apr. 1950): Diplomatic relations were frozen in 1965 following a coup attempt which Jakarta accused Beijing of supporting. Direct trade resumed in July 1985.
- Israel (Jan. 1950): Israel has not been recognized by China.

C. Nations maintaining diplomatic relations with Taiwan (26)

| | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Bahamas, The | Nauru |
| Belize | Panama ¹⁷ |
| Costa Rica ¹⁵ | Paraguay |
| Dominica | Saint Kitts and Nevis |
| Dominican Republic | Saint Lucia |
| El Salvador | Saint Vincent and the Grenadines |
| Grenada | Saudi Arabia ¹⁸ |
| Guatemala | Solomon Islands ¹⁹ |
| Haiti | South Africa |
| Honduras | Swaziland |
| Korea, South - Republic of Korea ¹⁶ | Tonga |
| Liberia | Tuvalu |
| Malawi | Vatican City |

D. Nations that neither recognize nor have official relations with China or Taiwan (2)

| | |
|--------|-------------------------|
| Brunei | Singapore ²⁰ |
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Prepared by INR/EAP, China Division
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Approved by Mary Ann Casey
647-2402

¹⁵ The official Chinese Xinhua News Agency has had an office in Costa Rica since April 1979.

¹⁶ The Republic of Korea announced the opening of a trade office in Shandong, China in September 1988.

¹⁷ China's Xinhua News Agency has had an office in Panama since May 1973.

¹⁸ Saudi Arabia and China in November 1988 announced the opening of trade offices.

¹⁹ Taiwan upgraded its mission in the Solomon Islands from Consulate General to Embassy on September 16, 1985.

²⁰ Singapore has permitted Taiwan to establish a trade mission which also handles consular matters. Singapore does not consider this as recognition and has no mission in Taiwan. Singapore has a trade mission in Beijing.